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Condition of the Working Class. In each case the author has revealed the struggle of the wage-earning poor, and of those who have been worsted and have sunk below the level of the wage-earners; and in each case the extent and dimensions of the picture are such as had not been attempted by a previous author in the same field.

Frederick Engels' book has not been superseded by the work of more recent investigators. It remains the classic presentation of the life of the poor in England in the decade 1840-50. Some of the prophecies of the young author have not been fulfilled after sixty years, because it is given to no man unerringly to read the future. Recognizing this fact, Robert Hunter has striven to avoid the allurements of prophecy and to confine himself to describing and interpreting the phenomena among which we all live, though few of us possess the vision requisite to the work of interpretation.

No student of philanthropy, or of sociology, can afford to ignore this book. Its main contentions concerning the extent of poverty and the active immediate causes thereof may well become the subject of wide and fruitful discussion. It is reasonable to expect that the charge of exaggeration may be brought with regard to the extent of poverty as defined by the author and also with regard to the influence of immigration. But candid effort to refute the author's position will only bring to light once more the sorry inconclusiveness of the official figures upon the collection and publication of which the individual states and the federal government expend vast sums for sadly unscientific results.

The list of authorities cited is, perhaps, somewhat weakened by the inclusion of names so little convincing to the scientific reader as those of Mrs. Van Vorst and Mr. W. J. Ghent; but when all deductions on the grounds of inclusiveness have been made, the arsenal of facts here brought to the attention of the critic must command the respect of the candid.

FLORENCE KELLEY.

Politique et religion: Questions du temps présent. By J. B.

RIPERT. Paris: Perrin, 1904. Pp. xi + 287. Fr. 3.50.

This book, which is easily read, contains a little of everything, but nothing very deep. A few titles of chapters will give an idea of the book: "Politics;" "The Parties in Parliament;" "A Few Out-

ward Signs of Morality;" "On the Foundations of Morals;" "Rational Character of the Religious Feeling." In short, the aim of the book is to prove the superiority of the religious doctrine as the foundation of morals, and the necessity for France to be religious if she will live and progress. This demonstration is made with the usual commonplace topics, and the arguments are so weak that it would be a loss of time to try to refute them. The social phenomena are observed and analyzed in quite a superficial way. The deductions often make us smile, and the few just ones which we meet scattered through the book are marred by commonplace repetitions. To think that the author is a member of Parliament and means to rule France! M. Ripert declares as an axiom: "The loss of the family spirit is the result of the dissolution of the marriages" (p. 32), forgetting to prove the existence of this loss, and, in case it should be admitted, that divorce is really the cause. Elsewhere (p. 61) we read this extraordinary assertion: "Nothing could induce the beggar to give up his lucrative profession"! The proof is still more extraordinary than the assertion. Here it is in all its ingenuity: "In spite of the foundation of works of assistance through labor, in spite of the *bureau de bienfaisance* and the public aid of which the beggar does not forget to make the most, mendicity is ever increasing." We must confess that such demonstrations disarm the critic by their puerility. The book is full of assertions imperturbably expressed as axiomatic truths, when they really need to be proved and fully demonstrated. In short, *Politique et religion* is an insignificant book which the student of sociology should not read if he values his time.

A. AND H. H.

Methods of Industrial Peace. By N. P. GILMAN. Boston and New York: Houghton, Mifflin & Co., 1904. Pp. 436.

The student of social movements has a doubly difficult task; not only is there a rapid growth of knowledge through critical investigations, but the facts themselves change while we are looking at the stream. Therefore we must have new books on the "labor question." It was desirable, for example, to place the results of the studies of the Industrial Commission in intelligible form for the public to consider. Within the last ten years experiments have been tried on a vast scale. The "sliding scale," once so generally accepted as a panacea, has fallen into disrepute.